Freeze on gas price

2270. SHRI RUMANDLARAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether Government propose to freeze the price of gas so that electricity and fertilizer do not become expensive and consumers are not over burdened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATISUMITRAMAHAJAN): No, Sir. There is no such proposal to freeze the gas price. However, -the impact of the proposed increase on power and fertilizer sectors will not be significant.

Survey on fuel adulteration

2271. PROF. SALF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he was aware of a very reputed NGO-Centre of Science and Environment having done a seminal research to highlight the systematic business of fuel adulteration;

(b) whether the Ministry has ever taken up such a survey of fuel adulteration; and

(c) whether Ministry proposes to eradicate this menace from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Under the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 22.11.2001, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) was directed to constitute an agency to carry out random inspection at the petrol pumps, oil depots and tank lorries in Delhi, for an independent assessment of the fuel quality. EPCA asked Centre for Science & Envronment to undertake the said assessment.

(b) and (c) Oil Marketing Companies and Anti Adulteration Cell carry out regular/surprise inspection of retail outlets. Besides, in order to prevent adulteration, the following steps have been taken.

(i) issuance of Naphtha and Solvents Control Orders,

(ii) revision of Marketing Discipline Guidelines making them more stringent,

(iii) introduction of new tamper proof tank-truck locking system.

Under the provisions of various Control Orders issued under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, State Governments have been empowered to deal with cases of adulteration.

Import of transport fuel

2272. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 73 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to canalise the import of transport fuel through companies instead of free import policy; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATISUMITRAMAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Before 1.4.2003, import of transportations fuels was allowed through IOC as State Trading Enterprise. Presently, lOCLas State Trading Enterprise and the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-Mkt dated 8.3.2002 of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, including HPCL, BPCL and IBP who have been marketing transportation fuels before this date, could import transportation fuels. In a deregulated scenario, direct imports of transportations fuels by the aforesaid companies is likely to bring in competition in the domestic market.

LPG agencies in Gujarat

†2273. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC, BPCL, HPCL or IBP propose to start LPG agencies in the cities of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.